

FATHERHOOD MAKES A DIFFERENCE: Stay Involved

Establishing legal fatherhood for unmarried parents is important so that your child can enjoy the same rights and privileges available to all children. It is easy to establish legal fatherhood and it can make a big difference in your child's emotional and financial future.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children with involved, caring fathers have better educational outcomes.

ESTABLISHING FATHERHOOD IS EASY

Paternity should be established for children whose mothers were not married during pregnancy or at the time of their child's conception or birth.

The father may establish paternity simply by signing an affidavit at the child's birth, acknowledging he is the father of the child. Forms for the mother and father to sign are available at hospitals and birthing centers, and signing the form at the child's birth means the father's name will be on the birth certificate. This guarantees the child will receive all the benefits of legal paternity.

If the mother was married when the baby was conceived or born, or during pregnancy, Alaska state law says her husband is the baby's legal father. If the husband is not the father, he must take legal action to disestablish paternity. This can be done through the courts or child support agency, or by signing a three-party affidavit with the mother, her husband and the biological father.

WHO CAN ASK TO DETERMINE PATERNITY?

The child's father, mother or legal custodian can apply to CSSD for establishment of paternity and a support order for a child born out of wedlock.

If the mother is not sure of the father's identity, CSSD can help determine what action is necessary to establish paternity.

An alleged father cannot ask to determine paternity for a child when there is a legal husband listed as the father on the child's birth certificate. In these instances, the alleged father will need to motion the court to determine paternity.

THE NUMBERS

According to 2011 U.S. Census Bureau data, over 24 million children live apart from their biological fathers. That is 1 out of every 3 (33%) children in America. Nearly 2 in 3 (64%) African American children live in father-absent homes. One in three (34%) Hispanic children, and 1 in 4 (25%) white children live in father-absent homes.

In 1960, only 11% of children lived in father-absent homes. The rate has tripled since then.

THE CONSEQUENCES

Children who live absent their biological fathers are, on average, at least two to three times more than their peers who live with their married, biological (or adoptive) parents to:

Be **poor** • Use **drugs** • Experience **educational problems** • Experience **health problems** • Experience **emotional problems** • Experience **behavioral problems** • Be **victims** of child abuse • Engage in **criminal behavior**

See more at: <http://www.fatherhood.org/>

Do I have to pay child support even though I'm in jail?

Yes. By Alaska law, the minimum amount that can be charged is \$50.00 per month. However, CSSD does not automatically change your support obligation when you become incarcerated.

Can I get my order changed because I'm in Jail?

Every situation is unique, if you are incarcerated on a long term basis, you may qualify. If your situation is temporary, you will not qualify.

Some examples that could qualify for a change include:

- *Long term incarceration (6 months or longer)*
- *If your finances change significantly up or down*
- *Permanent income change.*

How do I ask for a change of my child support order?

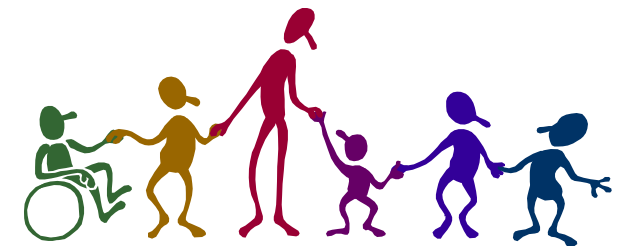
You can request a modification by calling, emailing or writing to CSSD.

CSSD email

dor.cssd.customerservice.anchorage@alaska.gov

DID YOU KNOW?

Although men are most frequently the providers of child support, 15 percent of all people who pay child support are women.



CSSD Checklist:

- **Always read and respond** to mail from CSSD.
- **Provide complete information** for faster processing and accurate orders.
- **Maintain contact.** Your case-worker can give you updates on actions taken on your case.
- **Keep good records** of your dealings with CSSD. Keep copies of your paystubs and tax records.
- **Notify CSSD of any changes** to your address, new job, income, child support order, custody order by the court, or when a child turns 18.
- **Check our website** for more information, forms, and answers to questions.



DID YOU KNOW?

Child support and visitation rights are two distinct and different legal matters. (You can't legally stop paying child support just because the other parent makes it hard for you or prevents you from seeing your child.)

Let us introduce ourselves!

We are the Alaska Child Support Services Division (CSSD) and are responsible for establishing and enforcing child support orders to make sure Alaska's children receive financial support from both parents.

We offer the following services:

- **Locate parents**
- **Establish paternity**
- **Establish child support orders**
- **Enforce child support orders**
- **Review and modify child support orders**
- **Direct deposit of your child support payments**

Payment Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 100380
Anchorage, AK 99510-0380

Mailing Address:

550 W 7th Ave, Suite 310
Anchorage, AK 99501-6699

Contact us:

Customer Service: **(907) 269-6900**
TOLL FREE (In-state) 800-478-3300
TOLL FREE (In-state) 800-370-6894
FAX (907) 787-3220



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Alaska Child Support Services Division (CSSD)

Helping Parents Help
Their Kids



What you should know about
Child Support

While you are in jail

Call Center Hours:
9:30am-4:00pm M-T

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUR
WEBPAGE:
www.childsupport.alaska.gov

